Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Tuesday 21 Dec 2021 until 23:59 on Wednesday 22 Dec 2021

Forecast Issued on Tuesday 21 Dec 2021 at 03:29

Confidence: High pressure and settled conditions will slip away through Wednesday with confidence for details lowering as low pressure approaches.

Headline for Tuesday 21 Dec 2021: Dry, but rather cloudy start to the day but clouds breaking in morning to leave sunny spells though staying chilly.

Mountain weather hazards on Tuesday 21 Dec 2021

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy Snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** No Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Low Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Clear night	Cloudy	Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals	Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)
Precipitation probability					
00%	00%	00%	00%	00%	00%

Forecast for Tuesday 21 Dec 2021

Weather: A chilly, dry but rather cloudy start, with some patchy low cloud on eastern slopes, although the highest summits may be occasionally above the cloud. Cloud likely to lift and breaking through the morning. Quite lengthy sunny spells in afternoon, though staying chilly.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 90%, but perhaps 50 or 60% in east at first.

Visibility: Generally very good with distant landmarks easily seen, but some fog on highest slopes, with broken cloud base between 700 and 900m, though mostly in morning and some patches between 300 and 500m at first

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Tuesday 21 Dec 2021

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	5/6 SE	5/6 SE	6/8 S	7/10 SE	9/12 SE	13/17 SE	14/20 SE
600	5/6 S	4/5 S	5/8 SW	5/8 S	6/8 S	8/11 S	11/16 S
300	4/5 S	6/9 S	6/10 S	3/6 S	5/10 S	7/14 S	8/17 S
Valley	2/7 E	3/8 E	4/9 SE	3/9 SE	3/11 SE	4/13 SE	5/14 SE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-2/-5	-2/-5	-3/-7	-2/-6	-2/-7	-2/-7	-1/-7
600	-0/-3	-1/-4	-2/-4	-1/-4	-2/-5	-2/-6	-1/-6
300	0/-2	0/-3	1/-2	0/-2	-0/-3	-1/-4	-1/-4
Valley	2/1	2/0	3/1	2/1	1/-1	1/-1	1/-2
Freezing Level*	400m	300m	300m	300m	200m	200m	200m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Some uncertainty in how quickly the cloud breaks up.

Forecast for Wednesday 22 Dec 2021

Weather: Dry, bright and chilly start with frost but cloud will thicken from west to bring outbreaks of rain by the afternoon, with snow falling on the summits into the afternoon, though rain could fall onto freezing surfaces for a time, bringing very treacherous and difficult conditions. Rain becoming persistent and rather heavy from mid-afternoon, with extensive hill fog by the evening.

Maximum wind: Southeast 10mph becoming Southerly 20-30mph by lunchtime and southwest 30-35 gust 45mph towards evening.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 80%, becoming 20% by the afternoon, but little or no chance from mid-afternoon.

Visibility: Very good at first, but moderate occasionally poor in rain in afternoon and poor or very poor in summit snow and with hill fog forming by the afternoon as cloud base lowers to 500m, but down to 300-400m from mid-afternoon, with patches 200m on western slopes.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Minus 3 C at first, rising to plus 2 C in the morning and plus 9 C by the evening
At 800m: Minus 2 C rising to Plus 1 C in the morning, then plus 7 or 8 C in afternoon
Freezing level: At all levels at first, but 500m by late morning and rising above the tops in afternoon

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement
Date: Monday 20 December
Location: Helvellyn summit at 00:02

Temperature: minus 0.4 C
Maximum wind speed 5.1 mph
Wind chill: minus 3.4 C
Average wind speed: 2.2 mph

Full report:
The majority of the Lakeland fells are now free from snow up to and including summit level. That stated some large patches of snow still remain. These are generally, but not exclusively, to be found in sheltered spots and hollows and on east and north facing aspects above 750m. All such snow encountered today was hard and icy. Owing to its location and height and combined with a summit temperature around midday of just below zero degrees, the snowpack was neither thawing nor softening and as such should be avoided – unless you are carrying winter mountaineering equipment. However, the vast majority of Lakeland paths can now be followed without setting foot on snow. More of an issue are occasional patches of thin ice which are so intermittent that they can catch you out if not concentrating on foot placement! This is obviously more of concern when on exposed terrain. Swirral Edge can now be climbed without setting foot on snow, whereas there are only a few unavoidable steps on snow at the very top of Striding Edge – but they are not on steep ground (unless you have taken the wrong route in which case crampons and an ice axe will be required).

Despite the slightly milder temperatures, the summit temperature remains below freezing so full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment including torch, map and compass (and the ability to use them) are all essential for anyone going out onto the high fells.
Issued at: 03:29 on Tue 21 Dec 2021

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